

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION NEA-12

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INR-09 NSAE-00 MC-02 T-03 OMB-01 AID-20 PRS-01 EUR-25

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R 181230 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3496

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USCINCEUR

CHUSMTM DHARHAN

SECDEF WASHDC

S E C R E T JIDDA 1097

E. O. 11652; GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, YE

SUBJECT: SAUDI PLANS FOR STRENGTHENING YAR MILITARILY

REF: A. JIDDA 1061; B. STATE 49923

1. REFTEL A REFERS TO LIST OF EQUIPMENT WHICH YEMENIS
HAVE SUGGESTED FOR REARMING OF YAR. LIST IS GIVEN BELOW:

QUOTE: A. AIR FORCES

- (1) TWO COMPLETE SQUADRONS OF FIGHTER AIRCRAFT
WITH ACCOMPANYING RECONNAISSANCE AND TRAINING AIRCRAFT.
- (2) SIX LARGE HELICOPTERS CAPABLE OF CARRYING WAR
MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES INTO ISOLATED LOCATIONS.
- (3) SIX MILITARY TRANSPORTS.
- (4) TECHNICAL GROUND CONTROL EQUIPMENT FOR CONTROL
OF AIRCRAFT UNDER ALL CONDITIONS.
- (5) EQUIPPING THREE PRINCIPAL AIRPORTS TO ENABLE MILITARY
AVIATION TO USE THEM AND EQUIPPING TWO OTHER AIRPORTS WITH A

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RESERVE COMPANY.

B. NAVAL FORCES: FORMATION OF A NAVAL FORCE
CAPABLE OF PROTECTING COAST AND ISLANDS.

C. LAND FORCES (INFANTRY)

(1) ARMING AND TRAINING TWO COMPLETE INFANTRY DIVISIONS.

(2) COMPLETION OF CAPABILITY IN ARMAMENT AND CAPABILITY OF
EXISTING UNITS.

D. ARTILLERY

(1) TWO BATTALIONS OF ROCKET LAUNCHERS.

(2) TWO BATTALIONS OF HEAVY MORTARS, EQUIVALENT TO 120 MM
OR LARGER.

(3) TWO BATTALIONS OF 106 MM. (RECOILLESS RIFLES?).

(4) TWO BATTALIONS OF FIELD ARTILLERY OF
VARIOUS CALIBER (" MODERN HOWITZERS").

(5) FOUR BATTALIONS OF AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY.

(6) WORKSHOP AND MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT NECESSARY
FOR THESE BATTALIONS.

E. ARMOR

(1) A BRIGADE OF ARMOR EQUIVALENT TO T-54'S WITH ALL
ESSENTIAL ARMORED VEHICLES, TRANSPORT VEHICLES, MAINTENANCE
WORKSHOPS, SPARE PARTS, COMMUNICATIONS MEANS, AND TRANSPORTERS.

(2) A BATTALION OF SALLADIN 76 MM. ARMORED CARS.

(3) A BATTALION OF AMPHIBIOUS TANKS.

(4) A COMPANY OF MINE- REMOVER TANKS.

F. ENGINEERS

(1) THREE UNITS OF COMPLETE ROAD CONSTRUCTION
EQUIPMENT WITH TRUCKS, PICKUPS AND DUMP TRUCKS.

(2) TWO HUNDRED MINE DETECTORS.

(3) VARIOUS NECESSARY DEMOLITION MATERIALS
FOR TRAVERSING ROADS AND SUPPLY DEFENSIVE POSITIONS.

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G. COMMUNICATIONS

- (1) PROVISION OF A COMPLETE COMMUNICATIONS NET WHICH WILL LINK VARIOUS AREAS AND UNITS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY.
- (2) A BATTALION OF LONG- RANGE RADIOS MOUNTED ON VEHICLES CAPABLE OF MOVEMENT IN DIFFICULT TERRAIN AT HIGH SPEED.
- (3) ENOUGH PORTABLE GENERATORS (BATTERY CHARGING).

H. TRANSPORTATION

- (1) 400 BIG MERCEDES 5- TON CARGO TRUCKS
- (2) 200 MEDIUM 3- TON MERCEDES TRUCKS.
- (3) 200 1 1/2 TON TOYOTA LANDROVERS.
- (4) 100 1 1/4 TON TOYOTA LANDROVERS.
- (5) 50 WATER TRUCKS (4 X4) FOR MOUNTAINOUS AREAS.
- (6) 50 FUEL TANKERS.
- (7) NECESSARY WORKSHOPS FOR MAINTENANCE OF THESE VEHICLES PLUS SPARE PARTS AND WRECKER TRUCKS FOR RECOVERY FROM VARIOUS AREAS.. END QUOTE.

2. IN REMARKS REPORTED REFTEL A, SULTAN MENTIONED " INFLATED" YEMENI DEMANDS AND QUITE OBVIOUSLY LIST HE HAS GIVEN ME IS ONE WHICH YEMENIS MADE UP BEFORE ANY EFFORT AT PRUNING UNDERTAKING. PERHAPS IT CONSTITUTES, HOWEVER, HELPFUL STARTING POINT FOR CONSIDERTAION OF YEMENI MILITARY PRIORITIES. EXPECT TO HEAR MORE ABOUT THIS FROM PRINCE SULTAN AT NEXT MEETING.
THACHER

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